

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2008

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, SF

SUBJECT: MATANZIMA OUTLINES INDEPENDENCE PLANS AND POSSIBLE
TRIP TO U.S.

REF: DURBAN A-19

1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN EAST LONDON DAILY DISPATCH JULY 31, CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA, CHIEF MINISTER TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT, GAVE SOME INDICATION OF STRUCTURE POST-INDEPENDENCE TRANSKEI. ACCORDING MATANZIMA, HE WILL DISSOLVE TRANSKEI PARLIAMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES IN OCTOBER 1976 TO REQUEST MANDATE FROM PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF AND HIS PARTY'S POLICIES. TRANSKEI WILL BE REPUBLICAN IN STRUCTURE AND FORMALLY NAMED REPUBLIC OF TRANSKEI. NEW STATE WOULD NOT BE ONE PARTY; IT WILL BE NON-RACIAL AND WHITES WILL BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE CITIZENSHIP, HE ADDED.

2. MATANZIMA STATED BORDER POSTS WOULD BE ERECTED BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND TRANSKEI, BUT TRAFFIC WILL FLOW FREELY IN BOTH DIRECTIONS HE PREDICTED. THE TRANSKEI WILL ISSUE ITS OWN PASSPORTS, ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC MISSION ABROAD, INCLUDING HAVING AMBASSADOR IN SOUTH AFRICA. MATANZIMA SAID HE IS CONSIDERING TRIP TO U.S. AND EUROPE AS SOON AS
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POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS POSITION OF TRANSKEI AND LAY GROUNDWORK

FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE STATED HE ALSO PLANS AID SOUTH AFRICA'S DETENTE BY CONTACTING AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE.

3. COMMENT: THIS FIRST REFERENCE CONSULATE HAS SEEN TO CONSIDERATION OF U.S. TRIP BY MATANZIMA. TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPARENTLY HARBOR ILLUSION DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION BY UNITED NATIONS, U.S., U.K., AND AFRICAN STATES WILL AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW GRANT OF INDEPENDENCE IN OCTOBER 1976. ACCORDING BRITISH DIPLOMAT RECENTLY IN TRANSKEI, BOTH WHITE AND BLACK OFFICIALS FIRMLY BELIEVE TRANSKEI READY FOR INDEPENDENCE AND EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS OF GROSS POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND SHORTAGE SKILLED LABOR.
BERG

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